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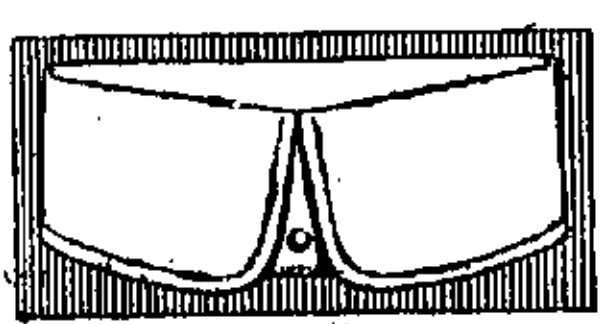
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SHIPBUILDING IN JAPAN.

While the smaller shipyards are closing down one by one, the building of large ships goes on with little, if any, relaxation. Many have to be constructed in fulfilment of contracts, especially those connected with the "tonnage against steel" bargain with the United States. The Department of Communications puts the estimated construction during the present year of ships over 1,000 tons at 630,000, and that of smaller vessels at the optimistic figure of 70,000—the same as last year, evidently reckoning that the facilities for getting materials and the smoother working due to better experience will more than make up for the disappearance of so many small yards. The following figures connected with estimates of Japanese tonnage have been published:—

Tonnage (steamers) at the end of 1918	1,827,123
Build (estimated) in 1918	515,592
Estimated construction for present year	700,000
Total	3,042,715
Steamers delivered to America in exchange for materials supplied, 1918	198,160
To be delivered in 1919	161,000
Estimated losses during the year	140,000
Total	427,000

Balance (Japan's tonnage at the end of the year) 2,615,014. The Osaka Chamber of Commerce has published some interesting figures relative to the growth of shipbuilding in Japan. According to this statement the number of dockyards throughout the country was 228 in 1912, 238 in 1914, 209 in 1915, 218 in 1916, and 335 in 1917. The numbers and tonnages of ships constructed in these dockyards are as follows:—

Year	Num.	Ton.	Num.	Ton.
1912	108	48,155	378	23,899
1913	115	51,528	359	43,598
1914	70	82,873	557	34,528
1915	63	51,421	411	30,021
1916	94	144,024	519	45,831
1917	244	283,320	1,354	129,773

As we may take the busy years of 1912 and 1917 as showing the maximum possible work, it will be seen that the shipbuilding capacity of Japan at the end of 1917 had increased by 33 per cent. as compared with pre-war times—this only in steamship construction.

MORPHIA RAID IN TIENTSIN.

TURNOVER OF \$46,000 A MONTH.

The British Municipal Police at Tientsin effected recently a most successful morphia raid. Acting under the instruction of Captain Oldham, the Police Superintendent, Inspector Lawless, accompanied by the Chinese Inspector and two other Chinese members of the force, entered a house and discovered a manufactory of morphia pills, which, according to statements of the Chinese, were sold to the Chinese, and on the rate of output, would aggregate \$46,000 a month. Apparently, says the *P. and T. Times*, the factory had been actually at work for but a little time, certainly less than a month. The building chosen for this nefarious business consisted of two stories with three rooms on the ground level and three upstairs. There are many large houses in the immediate neighbourhood inhabited by wealthy Chinese, and in order to prevent any knowledge of what was passing inside the premises, the owners and tenants were boarded up all their windows. When Inspector Lawless entered, three men were actually engaged in the making of the pills in the kitchen downstairs. Leaving these men in charge of his subordinates, Inspector Lawless proceeded to the first floor, where he found two men, one of whom he believed to be the principal of the enterprise, asleep. Around them were all sorts of paraphernalia for the mixing of the drugs of which the pills are composed. Altogether eight men were captured, two of whom were released, the remainder being hauled out in substantial numbers. A considerable amount of various paraphernalia such as is used by an apothecary was seized, in addition to great quantities of morphia, quinine, cocaine, heroin, sugar of milk, strychnine, etc., most of them mixed. It is not necessary to enumerate all the various descriptions of morphia pills, which included pill-sizes, chemist's scales, receptacles for rounding the pills, mortars for mixing the drugs, a mask for the use of the chemist when handling the drugs, etc.

Thousands of pills, some finished and the rest awaiting a sugar coating, were seized. The finished pills were neatly packed in cotton bags, each of which contained about 350 worth. There were many scores of these bags ready to be placed on the market.

JAPANESE IN SHANGHAI.

RAPID INCREASE.

The Shanghai *Nippo* calls attention to the rapid increase of Japanese residents in Shanghai and their relation with other foreign peoples in the International Settlement.

According to the statistics furnished by the Japanese Residents' Association, as many as 745 Japanese are entitled to vote. This means an increase of 100 votes compared with last year. In 1913 the number was 293. The total number of Japanese residents in Shanghai, however, is estimated at 3,000. The number of Japanese residents in the International Settlement of Shanghai.

The Japanese journal believes that at this rate of increase the total number of Japanese residents will reach more than 1,000 within two or three years, which is a larger number than the residents of any other nationality residing in the International Settlement of Shanghai.

ARMISTICE RENEWAL.

ERZBERGER'S STORY.

FOCH'S STERN STAND.

News from Berlin transmitted through the wireless stations of the German Government stated that Herr Scheidemann declared to the National Assembly, on February 7th, before entering upon the orders of the day: "There was concluded yesterday a new armistice agreement. We were desirous, at the same time as we reported upon this, of answering the German interpellation to-morrow. I had, however, that there is a wish, which is quite understandable, to hear something of the matter to-day. I therefore asked Erzberger if he could make any announcement with respect to it, and he replied that he could." Thereupon Erzberger spoke. After referring to his feelings when he had become aware of the contents of the new agreement, he said: "I do not wish that any single member of the House may ever have an experience during his life, the hours which I have lived through in Treves. The question: 'Can the armistice with these conditions be accepted, or is it not better to submit to the dictatorship of Marshal Foch?' was the one we were bound to reply to in Treves. Great technical difficulty stood in the way of a rapid reply, in that despatches which were handed out by me on Friday evening, in some hitherto unexplained manner, did not come into the hands of the Government until Saturday evening. I therefore demanded from Marshal Foch an extension of twenty-four hours. This was declined, with the remark that if, by Saturday afternoon at six o'clock, the armistice had not been prolonged, he would forthwith give orders to the troops that the whole of the armistice would come to an end at five a.m. on Monday. At the same time he allowed it to be known that he could not alter or extend anything in the provisions, as the conditions had been fixed by the chiefs of the Allied and Associated Governments, and his interpreting officer announced that President Wilson also expressly approved of these conditions. (Great sensation and 'Listen, listen!')

The activity of the Commission was restricted therefore within very narrow bounds, but, in spite of this, we made an attempt to secure a number of mitigations. Except in one case relating to the further Commission for shutting off the Poles, this to our extreme regret, did not succeed. The military experts had a mutual conversation, which led to the Nola district, near Bromberg, and also Upper Silesia, being excluded from the demarcation from the German point of view, and not outside it. The demand that the German town of Birnam should not be evacuated by us was rejected, and with respect to Bantchen we only secured that the railway station need not be evacuated by our troops. The Allied Powers undertook that the Poles should keep strictly to the agreed line of demarcation. Efforts made to introduce conditions in the armistice for the protection of Germans in all these regions were unsuccessful. Foch only stated that he would put the matter before the Allied Commission for solution of the question on the lines that we laid before him. He declared positively that the whole agreement in its first article represented a purely military measure, and that it would not bring any political consequences, whatsoever in its train, and also that no settlement of the thirteenth point of the Wilsonian programme was to be made in advance. It is an important point that, according to the assurances of the Allies, the Poles also have to cease every military offensive movement against Germany.

Article 2 merely contains details as to the renewal for a short period, not definitely stated; and the Allies reserve to themselves the right to a three days' denunciation. A proposal that the words "for," "short," and "period" should be struck out was rejected by Marshal Foch. On the question as to whether the words had been inserted in the hope of an early preliminary peace, Foch replied: "I think, I fancy so." I can tell you that negotiations are taking place as to a preliminary peace. The negotiations in Spa became more accentuated during the past few days on many occasions, but the Allied representatives urged that they alone had the right to draw up the agreement. ("Listen, listen.") With respect to these new demands, I considered it right to ask for new light on the question. In the new debate, it was ascertained that in the conditions hitherto obtaining in Spa, where we claimed that on a fair interpretation we had equal rights as compared with the Allies, and nothing should be changed, no new difficulties arose. I have confidence that the Marshal will openly and loyally fulfil his pledged word given in Treves. As Marshal Foch declared that he was unable to make any important change in the draft the Allies, I handed to Marshal Foch a Note containing our German proposals, which especially referred to the immediate release of German prisoners of war, with the request that he would place this Note before the Allied Governments. Marshal Foch declared that he was prepared to place the Note on Monday before the Supreme War Council of the Allies for their decision.

To my regret no definite promise of the immediate release of German prisoners of war was given us. (Sensation.) The reply of Marshal Foch was to the effect that a decision of the Allied Governments as to the immediate release of our prisoners did not (properly) arise (from the questions now at issue), but that Franco was willing to send back home at once 2,000 sick and seriously wounded prisoners of war (silly)—and also that England would send 2,000 home. Thereupon I said that this reply would be received with the deepest regret and indignation in Germany. (Unanimous approval.) If of 800,000 prisoners only

(Continued as foot of next column.)

"A MENACE TO LIFE AND PROPERTY."

SHIP'S OFFICER'S LAPSE

CHIEF ENGINEER'S EVIDENCE.

A Court of Inquiry composed of Commander C. W. Beckwith, R.N. (President), Lieut.-Com. P. V. Kilgour, R.N., H.M.S. *Tamar*; Mr. A. J. Hailey, master, s.s. *Montcalm*; and Mr. G. Byers, master s.s. *Kashin*, was held at the Marine Court, yesterday, to investigate a charge of neglect of duty brought against E. High, second officer of the *Chun Sang*, by Mr. C. J. Mattock, master of the same vessel.

The master of the *Chun Sang* said that the vessel left Singapore at about 5.30 p.m. on March 21st, bound for Hongkong. At about 8.15 p.m. he went on to the bridge, and noticed a number of fishing-boats lights close by. The boats were blowing their horns loudly and he had to port his helm to clear them. The second officer was alone on the bridge in charge of the ship, and witness found him asleep in the corner of the bridge. Calling the Chief Officer and the Chief Engineer, he asked them to "have a look at him." The second officer continued to sleep till 9.30 p.m., when he awoke, and, seeing the master, commenced to walk to and fro.

Commandr. Beckwith: How long has he been with you?—Mr. Mattock: About two-and-a-half years, and, during that time, he has been constantly drunk, both in port and at sea. Commandr. Beckwith asked if the man had been found asleep, while on duty, before.—Mr. Mattock: A similar case occurred in October, 1917, for which log is produced, when I found him fast asleep on the bridge, while in charge of the ship. Commandr. Beckwith: What steps did you take when you discovered the breach of duty on March 21st?—Mr. Mattock: When I got to Hongkong, I reported the case at the Harbour Office, and asked for a Marine Court.

The Chief Engineer, Mr. P. A. Peterson, corroborated the master's evidence. The Chief Officer, Walter Booker, said that he was in charge of the *Chun Sang* from 6 to 8 p.m., on March 21st, and was relieved by the second officer at 8 p.m. Commandr. Beckwith: Was he sober when he took over duties?—The Chief Officer replied that he could not exactly say. Continuing, witness said he went down and reported to the master various alterations of course. Between 8.20 and 8.30 p.m., the Captain called him on to the bridge, and there he saw the second officer lying close up against the rail, fast asleep, with his head pillowed on his hands. The Captain asked him what he thought of such conduct, and witness replied that "the second was a menace to life and property."

The defendant, in answer to a question from Commandr. Beckwith, said he had nothing to say in palliation of his conduct.

After a few minutes' deliberation, the Court arrived at the following finding:—"We find the charge against you, E. High, late Second Officer of s.s. *Chun Sang*, Official No. 109, of London, of being in charge of the vessel on the 21st March, 1917, for being asleep whilst in charge of the s.s. *Chun Sang* on the 21st March, whilst that ship was on a voyage from Singapore to Hongkong, proved. And, taking into consideration the fact that the ship and lives of all on board were placed in grave danger by your act, and that you have already been previously logged for the same offence in October, 1917, we order your certificate to be suspended for two years, and further that, before your certificate is returned, you must produce a certificate of sobriety from the master or masters under whom you have served."

The necessity for such a school has become yet more apparent since the founding of the Hongkong University, where, as in the case of all universities, the education accorded its pupils is of a much higher standard than that taught in preparatory schools and colleges. The great majority of the Catholics in this Colony are not in a pecuniary position to send their children to this university, and they also prefer that their children should be given a complete education in a purely Catholic school.

"PINKIE'S LAST PARTY."

Pinkie, invites all her many admiring friends, to want to see her for the last time, to come to her farewell Party to-day at 4.30 p.m.

HONGKONG POLICE RESERVE.

ORDERS ISSUED BY MR. J. W. FRANKS, D.S.P. (RESERVE).

Inspector C. M. S. Alves having returned from leave takes charge of No. 3 Platoon as from March 31st, 19

THE SPEED-LIMIT.

[illegible]

POST-WAR DISTRIBUTION OF THE BRITISH NAVY.

HUNGARY DECLARES WAR ON FOUR STATES.

INTER-ALLIED MEASURES AGAINST CENTRAL EUROPE.

THE GERMANO-POLISH IMPASSE:

SUSPENSION OF THE ARMISTICE PROBABLE.

RUMANIA INFLECTS CRUSHING DEFEAT ON BOLSHEVIKS.

MINERS URGED TO ACCEPT GOVERNMENT'S TERMS.

LATEST CABLES.

THE BRITISH NAVY.

POST-WAR DISTRIBUTION.

LONDON, March 28th.

Reuter is authoritatively informed that, as a result of the post war distribution of the British Navy there will be a Home Fleet and seven foreign squadrons.

The latter will be stationed in the Atlantic, West Atlantic, China, the Cape, South America, East Indies and in the Mediterranean.

THE FAMOUS TENTH CRUISER SQUADRON.

Admiral Sir David Beatty, speaking at Liverpool, on the Navy's services to the war, paid a tribute to Liverpool's efforts in fitting out the famous tenth cruiser squadron, which, during the war, maintained a rigorous blockade against Germany. He said: "That blockade was one of the most important factors in bringing about the defeat of the enemy. Its maintenance demanded seamanship of a high order, with vigilant and untiring devotion to duty. Stretched across waste waters from the West Hebrides to the Arctic icefields they kept their waterward in weather that had to be experienced to be understood. Every ship sighted had to be boarded and examined. They also had to contend with the enemy vessels, which appeared in many guises—as raiders, masqueraded as peaceful merchantmen, and blockade runners. The enemy's submarine, while the ubiquitous submarine was a constant menace."

LESSONS OF THE WAR.

"In common with other great services," continued Sir David, "the Navy learnt many lessons during the four-and-a-half years just past. We made many mistakes and it is our business to-day to see that the lessons have been taken to heart, and that we shall not again be found in such a state that we have to face the greatest crisis in history with improvised methods of working from hand to mouth."

"We in the Navy know full well our own defects, and it is our business to efface them, and to avoid repetition of mistakes from which we suffered in the past. The work of reconstruction has to be taken in hand with the full knowledge of our requirements learned by bitter experience in the past four-and-a-half years. It must be our endeavour to profit by that experience."

BRITAIN'S SURE SHIELD.

"The Navy is to-day what it has been for the past two hundred years—the sure shield of Britain and the British Empire. This sure shield must be kept secure by clear thinking, and a concerted effort on scientific lines. In the necessary struggle for retrenchment, such economies as will be taken in hand with the full knowledge of our requirements learned by bitter experience in the past four-and-a-half years. It must be our endeavour to profit by that experience."

THE BRITISH ARMY.

THE NEW BILL.

LONDON, March 28th. The new Army Bill provides that members of Imperial forces, who enlisted in the Dominions, and have been sentenced to penal servitude, need not serve the sentence in the United Kingdom, as hitherto provided in all soldiers' cases, but in the Dominion in question.

EARLIER CABLES.

NUMBER SO FAR DEMOBILISED.

Since the Armistice, 65,000 officers and 2,149,000 men have been demobilised.

"WAACS" TO BE RETAINED.

LONDON, March 28th. The Army Council has decided to maintain the Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps as a part of the post-war Army organisation.

LATEST CABLES.

BRITISH LABOUR.

CONSIDERABLY EASIER SITUATION.

LONDON, March 28th.

The Miners' Federation has issued a manifesto urging the men to continue working and vote for the acceptance of the Government's terms.

The situation in the South Wales coal-field has considerably improved. Over 30,000 miners have decided to return to work immediately.

BRITISH TITLES.

A LONG DELAYED ORDER.

LONDON, March 28th.

The Gazette announces that H.M. the King has directed that the following persons, who adhered to His Majesty's enemies during the war, be deprived of their titles, viz., the Duke of Albany, the Duke of Cumberland, Prince Ernest Augustus (Duke of Brunswick) and Viscount Taffa.

THE BISHOP OF OXFORD.

REASON FOR RESIGNATION.

LONDON, March 28th.

The Bishop of Oxford has resigned, desiring greater leisure for writing, preaching and speaking.

RACING AT HOME.

RESULT OF THE GRAND NATIONAL.

LONDON, March 28th.

The result of the Grand National is as follows:

Poethlyn 1
Ballyboggan 2
Pollan 3
Twenty-two started, but only eleven finished. Won by eight lengths, six lengths dividing second and third.
The betting was as follows:—
11 to 4 Poethlyn.
9 to 1 Ballyboggan.
100 to 7 Pollan.

CRISIS IN CENTRAL EUROPE.

HUNGARY DECLARES WAR ON SERBIA.

LONDON, March 28th.

It is reported that the Soviet Government of Hungary declared war on Serbia and the surrounding countries.

A skirmish between French and Hungarian detachments occurred at Czegedin.

INTER-ALLIED MEASURES TO BE TAKEN.

PARIS, March 28th.

The "Big Four" held two meetings yesterday. The second was attended by Marshal Foch, General Pershing, Sir Henry Wilson and General Diaz. It is believed that the meeting dealt with the inter-allied measures to be taken in view of the events in Budapest.

MILITARY MISSION FOR BUDAPEST.

PARIS, March 28th.

A message from Geneva states that an inter-allied military mission left for Budapest.

UNIVERSAL COMPULSORY WORK.

COPENHAGEN, March 27th.

A telegram from Budapest, dated March 27th, states that in a decree declaring that in a proletarian State only manual and brain workers have a right to live, the Soviet has ordered universal compulsory work. The State will support all incapable of working; also those wishing of work for whom the State cannot provide work.

A STAGE ON THE ROAD TO WORLD REVOLUTION.

M. Polgar, the new Hungarian Soviet Ambassador in Vienna, interviewed by the *Berliner Tageblatt*, declared that they would conclude with the Russian Soviet Government a very close military and political alliance of a defensive character. They resolved to resist, by force, every attack on the dictatorship of the proletariat.

He said that the *Entente* reprisals, which had not yet been observed, would probably not materialise, as the revolution in Hungary was merely a stage on the road to world revolution.

GENERAL MANGIN TO COMMAND ALLIED TROOPS.

PARIS, March 28th.

It is stated that General Mangin will be appointed to command the Allied troops in Hungary and Rumania.

Le Matin states that an extension of General Mangin's powers is contemplated, in order to establish a front from the Baltic to the Black Sea, under a united command.

LATER.

The *New York Herald*, referring to the summoning of the Allied Generals, states that the American and British Delegations do not favour the proposal to mobilise all Allied and friendly peoples from the Baltic to the Black Sea under Marshal Foch's command.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A RED NATIONAL GUARD.

COPENHAGEN, March 28th.

A decree of the Revolutionary Executive establishes a Red National Guard, whose members may be called up at any time in the war service of the Government.

It ordered the *Entente* flags to be hoisted in the hotel where the *Entente* Missions were staying, as a token of respect.

HUNGARY AND GERMAN-AUSTRIA.

COPENHAGEN, March 28th.

At a meeting of the National Assembly, speeches were exchanged hoping for a continuance of good relations between Hungary and German-Austria.

ESTABLISHMENT OF SOVIETS IN HUNGARY.

BERLIN, March 28th.

Soviets are being rapidly established throughout Hungary. The peasants are welcoming the opportunity to secure land.

VIENNA ISOLATED.

COPENHAGEN, March 28th.

A message from Vienna, dated March 28th, states that the strike has extended on the northern railway. Communication between Vienna and the outside world is almost at a standstill. If food trains continue to be held up, the bread ration will be halved next week.

RAILWAY STRIKE SETTLED.

COPENHAGEN, March 28th.

A message from Vienna states that the railway strike has been settled.

STRIKERS' DEMANDS.

COPENHAGEN, March 28th.

A message from Essen says that the miners' strike has spread to eleven pits in the Dortmund District, twelve in the Witten District, and seven in the Bochum District.

At a meeting, the strikers passed a resolution demanding the formation of a Revolutionary Workers' Guard, the establishment of relations with the Russian Soviet Government and disarmament of the Police in Germany. Eleven were killed and 37 wounded in a fight between the strikers and the Police at Witten.

EARLIER CABLES.

PEACE CONFERENCE TO TAKE ACTION.

PARIS, March 28th.

A Havas message says:—The Peace Conference will have reduced to a Council of Four (in which Japan is not included) who are invested with the confidence of their respective nations, and are expected to take decisions to meet the imminent peril, threatening the world's peace, in Russia and Hungary, and give peace a definite shape quickly.

HUNGARY DECLARES HOSTILITIES.

Official circles in Paris have received, with great scepticism, the reports that the new Hungarian Government has declared hostilities against Rumania, Czech-Slovakia and Jugo-Slavia.

THE TEMPTER.

PARIS, March 28th.

Le Temps' Correspondent at Geneva states that the new Hungarian Soviet Government has issued an appeal urging them to join the Hungarian movement and overthrow their respective Governments.

The Czech Socialists appear to be firmly resolved to oppose any invasion by Bolshevism, of the Czech-Slovak Republic. M. Klotz, the Socialist leader and Minister of National Defence in the Czech-Slovak Ministry, declared that the Czech Democratic Army would unhesitatingly crush any attempt to establish a Bolshevik régime in Bohemia.

NEED FOR ALLIED ACTION.

PARIS, March 28th.

The reports from Vienna urge the necessity of the Peace Conference bringing about an effective peace before Bolshevism gets the upperhand in Austria.

THE POLISH-RUMANIAN BARRIER.

PARIS, March 28th.

A Havas message says:—The French Press publish an interesting interview with M. Nidaiovici, the Transylvanian Minister in the Rumanian Cabinet, expressing the opinion that, in order to resist Bolshevism successfully, it is necessary to lengthen the Polish-Rumanian barrier, till it stretches from the Baltic to the Black Sea, thus saving the rest of Europe from contamination.

LATEST CABLES.

THE ARMISTICE.

SUSPENSION OF ARMISTICE POSSIBLE.

COPENHAGEN, March 28th.

A message from Berlin, dated March 28th, states:—The *Lokal Anzeiger* says that a suspension of the Armistice is possible.

DISPUTE OVER FATE OF DANTZIG.

Germany's reply to the *Entente* ultimatum on the subject of Dantzig is long and argumentative. It contends that it was agreed under the Armistice, to admit Allied, not Polish troops.

The newspapers declare that the real motive of the Germans is not the fear of civil war as they allege, but the desire to profit from two conflicting motives at the Paris Conference on the subject of the future of Dantzig. It is suggested that the Allies, while insisting that the Polish Army be allowed to land at Dantzig, assure the Germans that the right of landing will not be abused.

GERMAN PRESS WAXES INDIGNANT.

BERLIN, March 28th.

The German Press denounces the proposed Polish landing as an attempt to prejudice the decisions of the Peace Conference by the creation of an accomplished fact. They declare that the *Entente* should be warned by the example of Hungary, and not humiliate their opponents unduly.

ULTIMATUM SENT TO GERMANY.

AMSTERDAM, March 28th.

A message from Berlin states that the *Entente* sent an ultimatum to the Government demanding assent to the landing of Polish troops at Dantzig, and declaring that a refusal would be regarded as a breach of the Armistice.

The Government replied that they could not be responsible for the measure demanded, but were prepared to facilitate the Polish landing in Stettin, Koenigsberg, Memel or Libau in the most effective manner.

MARSHAL FOCH PROMISES GUARANTEES.

AMSTERDAM, March 28th.

Replying to the German Note, with reference to the landing of Polish troops at Dantzig, Marshal Foch intimated that he would personally go, at Spa, on April 3rd, all information and guarantees required to the German plenipotentiary, who must be empowered to decide within forty-eight hours.

The German Government decided to send Herr Erzberger as plenipotentiary to Spa.

UKRAINIANS PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE.

BERNE, March 30th.

The Ukrainians are prepared to negotiate with the Poles with regard to an armistice, provided a certain line of demarcation be established, to which the Allies agreed.

GERMANY.

COMMERCE RESTRICTIONS TO BE RAISED.

LONDON, March 28th.

The Press Bureau states:—A message from Paris, dated March 28th, states that Mr. Lansing, Mr. Balfour, M. Pichon, Baron Sonnino and Baron Makino, at a meeting to-day, decided to raise all restrictions on commerce with German-Austria immediately the necessary machinery was established to prevent re-export to Germany.

TALK TALK.

COPENHAGEN, March 30th.

The Majority Socialists, Herr Stoesel, declared that the workers would rather not have peace than one making them work forty years for the victors' pleasure. "Our Executive Committee," said Herr Stoesel "has resolved, if necessary, to pursue the same policy as Hungary."

GOVERNMENT TROOPS DISPERSE SPARTACISTS.

COPENHAGEN, March 28th.

A message from Magdeburg, dated March 27th, states that the Spartacists at Tangermünde stormed and plundered lighters carrying provisions for the frontier Army. Troops were brought up but were fired on. They replied killing and wounding several. The troops finally cleared the harbour.

"PROVISIONAL" NAVY TO BE CREATED.

COPENHAGEN, March 28th.

A message from Weimar states that the National Assembly passed a Bill for the creation of a provisional Navy, which Herr Noske said was necessary to protect the transport of foodstuffs, remove mines, and protect fisheries.

EARLIER CABLES.

ALLIES IMPOSE TRADE RESTRICTIONS.

PARIS, March 27th.

The list of commodities which Germany is prohibited from exporting comprises war material of all kinds, including warships; also gold, silver, and securities. The exports, permitted conditionally, include coal, dye stuffs, various products of iron and steel, sugar, window-glass, electrical and certain other machinery, and the Allied Governments are entitled to purchase these articles.

Representatives of the Allies will proceed immediately to Cologne and other places to arrange prices, etc., with the Germans. Purchases by the Allies must not exceed two-thirds surplus of any of these commodities which Germany has for sale. Germany will be free to export the remaining one-third as she wishes, but the proceeds of all exports will be devoted to the payment of the German food bill.

GERMANY AND RUSSIA.

COPENHAGEN, March 28th.

A telegram from Weimar states that, in the National Assembly, Herr Noske denied that German troops had attacked Russian Soviet troops as stated in M. Tchitcherine's message to Budapest.

The German Government would undertake no offensive in Courland or Lithuania. A certain safeguarding of the Eastern frontier was unfortunately still requisite, but Government only wished to live in peace and good neighbourship with Russia.

THE GERMAN EX-ROYALTIES.

SOME INTERESTING LETTERS.

The *Deutsche Zeitung* publishes an autograph letter from the ex-Kaiser to the ex-Crown Prince, dated November 18th. It begins:—

My dear boy,
After the Court Chamberlain advised me that he could no longer guarantee my safety at Main Head-quarters, and that the troops were no longer trustworthy, I resolved, after a severe mental struggle, to leave the Army, which has collapsed, and go to Holland. I advise you to stick to your post until the conclusion of the Armistice. I hope to see you again in happier times.

Your faithful and deeply afflicted father,
Thereupon the Crown Prince wrote to Herr Ebert requesting permission to remain at his post, and undertaking to bring the Army back in a well-disciplined and orderly manner. Herr Ebert refused the request, and the Crown Prince in the course of a lengthy letter to von Hindenburg justifying his action, said that he had decided, "with deep emotion and after a hard struggle," to go to a neutral country. He pointed out that no renunciation of the throne was either demanded of him or made by him.

GERMAN-AUSTRIA.

ALL EX-ROYALTIES BANISHED.

COPENHAGEN, March 28th.

A telegram from Vienna states that the Government has introduced a Bill for the abolishing all the rights and privileges of the Hapsburgs, banishing all the members of the house of Hapsburg, Bourbon and Parma, and proclaiming the German-Austrian Republic the owner of the personal and real estate of the Hapsburgs, the proceeds of which may be used to benefit the sufferers through the war. The private property of the Hapsburgs will not be touched.

LATEST CABLES.

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

COMMISSION'S LABOURS TO BE COMPLETED ON FRIDAY.

PARIS, March 28th.

It is anticipated that the League of Nations Commission will finish their labours about April 6th. It is stated that neither the Monroe Doctrine nor the Japanese amendment, regarding racial equality, has been formally put before the Commission. The latter problem has become almost of primary importance in connection with the League.

There is now no doubt that the entire Covenant will be incorporated in the Preliminary Peace Treaty.

LEAGUE POWERLESS TO INTERFERE IN DOMESTIC POLICY.

One amendment adopted provides that the League cannot interfere in the internal affairs solely within any country's domestic jurisdiction. This is inapplicable to any territory held under a mandate.

IF IRELAND AND GREAT BRITAIN FALL OUT.

A high authority, replying to a question, declared that in the event of civil war between Ireland and Great Britain, the matter would not be within the jurisdiction of the League, nor would the question of the independence of Ireland be.

THE EQUALITY OF SEXES RECOGNISED.

The principle of the equality of sexes receives indirect endorsement, it being provided that women may be employed on the Secretariat. They may also sit as Delegates and on the Executive Council. Conventions dealing with the White Slave traffic, the opium traffic, and the treatment of natives are also being included.

EARLIER CABLES.

SHOULD WOMEN HAVE A PLACE?

PARIS, March 27th.

A Havas message says:—The co-operation of women in the future work of the League of Nations is being seriously considered by leading statesmen in Paris. Women should have a place on the permanent Board, and Commissions to consider international hygiene and labour problems interesting to woman-kind throughout the world.

LATEST CABLES.

THE PEACE CONFERENCE.

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

LONDON, March 28th.

The *Manchester Guardian* publishes a special illustrated League of Nations number containing articles from many prominent statesmen, including Lord Haldane, Buckmaster, and Bryce, M. Albert Thomas, and Doctor Nansen. The journal also prints a message from Mr. Lloyd George, in which the Premier says:—The League represents the greatest attempt ever made to institute reason and justice for force and intrigue as the governing principle of international relations. Nations must not be misled by a constant, the peace of the world has been made secure.

If they allow themselves to be misled by this policy they will only be re-awakened by a new war. They must now see that the League of Nations is made an effective instrument for the solution of every international problem, by readiness to make sacrifices on its behalf. We cannot expect war-ravaged nations to trust their desolated lands to the League's protection if its advocates hesitate to show any confidence themselves in its guarantee. To set up a Society of Nations in order to create fraternity among the peoples of the earth while, simultaneously, increasing armaments and navies to ensure effective fratricide, is to make mockery of a great ideal.

M. Albert Thomas emphasises that one of the principal functions of the League lies in the economic sphere where it is necessary to set up and organise international life. In this connection, he points out Great Britain's selfishness by placing a greatly preponderant mercantile fleet for the Allied navies during the war; he also eulogises how Britain similarly renounced advantages with respect to food-stuffs, in order to rigidly secure equal Allied distribution. He advocates the transformation of Inter-Allied Committees, formed during the war into International Commissions for the purchase and distribution of food-stuffs, whose activities may endure beyond the requisite period of attending to the needs of countries at present suffering from hunger.

Lord Bryce foresees many difficulties in the working of the League of Nations, but expresses the hope that the long lives—the more may we trust to the nations to discharge its responsibility. To leave things now where they were before the outbreak of war will be a most deplorable confession of human weakness, and the most dismal surrender of human hopes that has ever yet been seen.

IS THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS DELAYING PEACE?

LONDON, March 28th.

The Press Bureau states:—A message from Paris says that President Wilson, in a statement, combating the impression that discussions by the League of Nations Commission are delaying peace, points out that the conclusions of the Commission were the first to be presented to the Preliminary Conference. The Commission is endeavouring to take advantage of criticisms and the Committee of the Commission is conferring with representatives of neutral States who are evincing deep interest, and are practically unanimous in the desire to align themselves to the League.

THE SAAR REGION.

COPENHAGEN, March 30th.

A message from Berlin, dated March 28th, states that, replying to resolutions from Rhenish Westphalia, protesting against the alleged French plans concerning the Saar region, Herr Brockdorff von Rantzen telegraphed that the German Ministry would absolutely reject any demands going beyond President Wilson's principles.

GENERAL BOTHA'S MOVEMENTS.

LONDON, March 17th.

General Botha yesterday for South Africa. Reuter learns that report of General Botha's departure to South Africa is incorrect. General Botha returns to Paris to-morrow and is remaining till his task is completed.

LATER.

PRELIMINARY PEACE TREATY.

####

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SHANGHAI	"LIANGCHOW"	On 7th Apr. 10 A.M.
SWATOW	"SHANGHAI"	On 8th Apr. Noon.
MANILA, CEBU & ILOILO	"SHANGHAI"	On 8th Apr. Noon.
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NELLORE	27th April.	2nd June.	10th June.

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-------------	------------------------	--------------

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NAGASAKI, and KOBE ... KAMO MARU ... 15,980 tons ... Sat. 4th Apr. at Noon.

SHANGHAI, and KOBE ... IYO MARU ... Sat. 19th Apr. at 11 A.M.

LONDON VIA SINGAPORE, PENANG, COLOMBO, SUEZ and PORT SAID ... NIKKO MARU ... 9,800 tons ... Wed. 23rd Apr. at 11 A.M.

MELBOURNE VIA MANILA, ZAMBOANGA, THURBURN, TOWNSVILLE, BRISBANE and SYDNEY ... TENSIN MARU ... Wed. 9th April.

NEW YORK VIA SHANGHAI, KOBE, YOKOHAMA, SAN FRANCISCO and PANAMA CANAL ... TOYO MARU ... Middle of April.

BOMBAY VIA SINGAPORE, MALACCA & COLOMBO ... RANGOON MARU ... End on April.

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NIPPON MARU	11,000	29th April, From YOKOHAMA.
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TENYO MARU	22,000	5th May.
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	"NEIRA" ... 10,000 tons	do. 20th April.
	"SPHINX" ... 20,000 tons	do. 30th May.

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FROM	PER	DATE
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FOR	PER	DATE
Anoy and Straits	Taiwan Maru	Thursday, 3rd, 8.00 A.M.
Saloon	Hanani	Thursday, 3rd, 9.00 A.M.
Shanghai, N. China, and Japan via Kobe	Kaga Maru	Thursday, 3rd, 10.00 A.M.
Shanghai and North China	Sunwang	Thursday, 3rd, 11.00 A.M.
Straits, Bangkok, and Europe via Suez	Benrimme	Thursday, 3rd, 11.00 A.M.
Hoihow and Haiphong	Takung	Thursday, 3rd, 5.00 P.M.
Straits, Bangkok, Ceylon, Mauritius, South Africa, India via Dhanushkodi	Kamo Maru	Friday, 4th, 8.45 A.M.
Egypt and Europe via Suez	Tjimanook	Friday, 4th, 9.00 P.M.
Java, and Port Moresby via Batavia	Loongang	Friday, 4th, 2.00 P.M.
Philippine Islands	Agosonor	Friday, 4th, 2.30 P.M.
Straits, Bangkok, Egypt & Europe via Suez	Pheumpah	Friday, 4th, 5.00 P.M.
Shanghai, North China, Japan via Yokohama, Honolulu, Canada, United States, Central and South America, and Europe via San Francisco	Nanking	Saturday, 5th, 8.45 A.M.
Japan via Kobe, Canada, United States, Central and South America, and Europe via Canada	Protilaus	Saturday, 5th, 9.45 A.M.
Anoy	Taiwan	Saturday, 5th, 10.30 A.M.
Shanghai and North China	Chenai	Saturday, 5th, 5.00 P.M.
Swatow, Amoy and Fochow	Hai Hong	Sunday, 6th, 9.00 A.M.
Swatow, Amoy and Formosa via Keelung	Kai Maru	Sunday, 6th, 9.00 A.M.

* Correspondence bearing vessel's name, only.

In the case of Mails closing before 9 a.m. Registration closes at 5 o'clock on the previous evening.

ELECTRICAL FITTINGS

For the latest types of Lamps and Radiators.

Visit our Electrical Show Room at 14, Des Vaux Road.

One centre ceiling light replaces four or five ordinary bulbs and gives a more diffused light with the "Brascolite" Fitting.



The cool season will soon be on us, so book your order in time for an economical and cheerful "Majestic" Radiator.

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THE PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION CO.

STEAM FOR STRAITS, CEYLON, BOMBAY, EGYPT, MEDITERRANEAN PORTS AND LONDON.

THROUGH BILLS OF LADING ISSUED FOR BATAVIA, AMERICAN, CONTINENTAL, AND SOUTH AFRICAN PORTS.

THE Homeward Mail Steamer "DUNERA" carrying His Majesty's Mail, will be despatched from this port about APRIL 12th, 1919, taking cargo for the above Ports. Passenger accommodation in the connecting vessel when available, secured before departure from Hongkong.

Silk and Valuable Cargo for Italy, France and London (under arrangement) will be conveyed by this Steamer proceeding to Bombay and thence transhipped to the on-carriage Steamer for Marseilles and London.

Parcels will be received at the Office until 3 p.m. the day before sailing. The contents and value of all packages are required. For further particulars, sailing dates, etc., apply to—

MACKINNON, MACKENZIE & CO., Agents.

P. & O. S. N. Co.

22, Des Vaux Road Central, Hongkong, April 1st, 1919.

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COMMERICAL.

OPENING QUOTATIONS.

On London	April 2nd
Telegraphic Transfer	3/2
Bank Bill, on demand	3/2
Bank Bill, at 30 days' sight	3/2
Bank Bill, at 4 months' sight	3/2
Bank Bill, at 6 months' sight	3/2
Bank Bill, at 9 months' sight	3/2
Bank Bill, at 12 months' sight	3/2
On Paris	44 1/2
Bank Bill, on demand	44 1/2
Bank Bill, at 30 days' sight	44 1/2
Bank Bill, at 4 months' sight	44 1/2
Bank Bill, at 6 months' sight	44 1/2
Bank Bill, at 9 months' sight	44 1/2
Bank Bill, at 12 months' sight	44 1/2
On New York	75 1/2
Bank Bill, on demand	75 1/2
Bank Bill, at 30 days' sight	75 1/2
Bank Bill, at 4 months' sight	75 1/2
Bank Bill, at 6 months' sight	75 1/2
Bank Bill, at 9 months' sight	75 1/2
Bank Bill, at 12 months' sight	75 1/2
On Bombay	100
Telegraphic Transfer	100
Bank Bill, on demand	100
Bank Bill, at 30 days' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 4 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 6 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 9 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 12 months' sight	100
On Calcutta	100
Telegraphic Transfer	100
Bank Bill, on demand	100
Bank Bill, at 30 days' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 4 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 6 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 9 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 12 months' sight	100
On Shanghai	100
Bank Bill, at sight	100
Bank Bill, at 30 days' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 4 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 6 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 9 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 12 months' sight	100
On Yokohama	100
Bank Bill, on demand	100
Bank Bill, at 30 days' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 4 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 6 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 9 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 12 months' sight	100
On Manila	100
Bank Bill, on demand	100
Bank Bill, at 30 days' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 4 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 6 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 9 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 12 months' sight	100
On Singapore	100
Bank Bill, on demand	100
Bank Bill, at 30 days' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 4 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 6 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 9 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 12 months' sight	100
On Batavia	100
Bank Bill, on demand	100
Bank Bill, at 30 days' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 4 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 6 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 9 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 12 months' sight	100
On Hongkong	100
Bank Bill, on demand	100
Bank Bill, at 30 days' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 4 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 6 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 9 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 12 months' sight	100
On Amoy	100
Bank Bill, on demand	100
Bank Bill, at 30 days' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 4 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 6 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 9 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 12 months' sight	100
On Swatow	100
Bank Bill, on demand	100
Bank Bill, at 30 days' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 4 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 6 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 9 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 12 months' sight	100
On Fochow	100
Bank Bill, on demand	100
Bank Bill, at 30 days' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 4 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 6 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 9 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 12 months' sight	100
On Kanton	100
Bank Bill, on demand	100
Bank Bill, at 30 days' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 4 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 6 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 9 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 12 months' sight	100
On Canton	100
Bank Bill, on demand	100
Bank Bill, at 30 days' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 4 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 6 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 9 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 12 months' sight	100
On Peking	100
Bank Bill, on demand	100
Bank Bill, at 30 days' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 4 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 6 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 9 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 12 months' sight	100
On Tientsin	100
Bank Bill, on demand	100
Bank Bill, at 30 days' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 4 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 6 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 9 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 12 months' sight	100
On Hankow	100
Bank Bill, on demand	100
Bank Bill, at 30 days' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 4 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 6 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 9 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 12 months' sight	100
On Soochow	100
Bank Bill, on demand	100
Bank Bill, at 30 days' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 4 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 6 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 9 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 12 months' sight	100
On Shanghai	100
Bank Bill, on demand	100
Bank Bill, at 30 days' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 4 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 6 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 9 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 12 months' sight	100
On Amoy	100
Bank Bill, on demand	100
Bank Bill, at 30 days' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 4 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 6 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 9 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 12 months' sight	100
On Swatow	100
Bank Bill, on demand	100
Bank Bill, at 30 days' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 4 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 6 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 9 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 12 months' sight	100
On Fochow	100
Bank Bill, on demand	100
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On Kanton	100
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On Canton	100
Bank Bill, on demand	100
Bank Bill, at 30 days' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 4 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 6 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 9 months' sight	100
Bank Bill, at 12 months' sight	100
On Peking	10